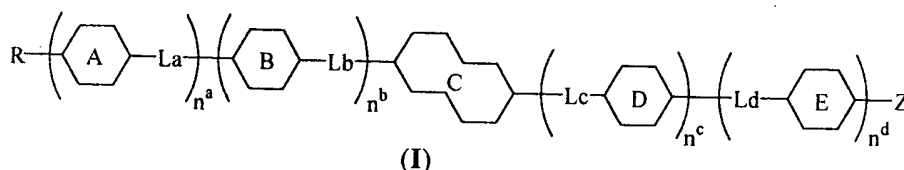


IN THE CLAIMS:

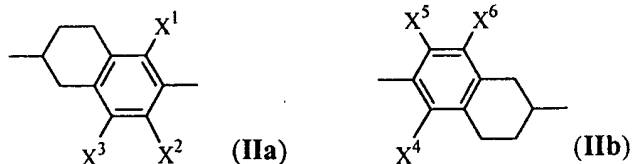
Please amend the following claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative represented by a general formula (I)



(wherein, R represents a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may incorporate a branched chain and may be substituted with 1 to 7 fluorine atoms or alkoxyl groups of 1 to 7 carbon atoms; linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld each represent independently a single bond,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$ ,  $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$ ,  $\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2$ ,  $\text{CF}=\text{CF}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ,  $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)$ ,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CF}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{OCF}_2$ ,  $\text{COO}$ ,  $\text{OCO}$ ,  $\text{COS}$  or  $\text{SCO}$ ; Z represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, cyano group, cyanato group, trifluoromethoxy group or a difluoromethoxy group; ring A, ring B and ring D each represent independently a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a trans-decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a trans-1,3-dioxane-2,4-diyl group, or a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, a pyridine-2,5-diyl group, a pyrimidine-2,5-diyl group, a pyrazine-2,5-diyl group, a pyridazine-3,6-diyl group, and a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms; ring E represents independently a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, and a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be

substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, ring C represents either one of a general formula (IIa) and a general formula (IIb)



(wherein,  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $X^3$ ,  $X^4$ ,  $X^5$  and  $X^6$  each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a fluorine atom); and  $n^a$ ,  $n^b$ ,  $n^c$  and  $n^d$  each represent independently either 0 or 1;

although, in a case in which  $n^c = 1$  and  $n^d = 0$ , ring D represents a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms and/or a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms;

in a case in which Z is a cyano group, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group,  $n^a = n^c = n^d = 0$  and  $n^b = 1$ , or  $n^b = n^c = n^d = 0$  and  $n^a = 1$ , ring A and ring B are 1,4-phenylene groups, La and Lb are single bonds, and ring C is said general formula (IIa), then at least one of  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$  and  $X^3$  represents a fluorine atom;

in a case in which Z is a cyano group, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group,  $n^a = n^b = n^c = 0$  and  $n^d = 1$ , or  $n^a = n^b = n^d = 0$  and  $n^c = 1$ , ring C and ring D are 1,4-phenylene groups, Lc and Ld are single bonds or -COO- linkages, and ring C is said general formula (IIa), then at least one of  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$  and  $X^3$  represents a fluorine atom;

in a case in which Z is a cyano group, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group,  $n^a = n^b = n^c = 0$  and  $n^d = 1$ , or  $n^a = n^b = n^d = 0$  and  $n^c = 1$ , ring C and ring D are 1,4-

phenylene groups, Lc and Ld are single bonds or -COO- linkages, and ring C is said general formula (IIb), then at least one of  $X^4$ ,  $X^5$  and  $X^6$  represents a fluorine atom;

211 in a case in which Z is a fluorine atom, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxy group,  $n^a = n^b = n^c = 0$  and  $n^d = 1$ , or  $n^a = n^b = n^d = 0$  and  $n^c = 1$ , ring C and ring D are 1,4-phenylene groups, Lc and Ld are -COO- linkages, and ring C is said general formula (IIb), then at least one of  $X^4$ ,  $X^5$  and  $X^6$  represents a fluorine atom;

and in a case in which ring C is said general formula (IIb), at least one of  $n^c$  and  $n^d$  is 1).

4. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), either one of  $n^a$  and  $n^b$  is 0.

5. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), either one of  $n^c$  and  $n^d$  is 0.

6. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I),  $n^a = n^b = 0$ .

7. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I),  $n^c = n^d = 0$ .

8. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), at least one of  $n^a$ ,  $n^b$ ,  $n^c$  and  $n^d$  is 1.

9. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), said linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld are each selected independently from a group consisting of a single bond,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ , and  $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$ .

10. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), said linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld are each selected independently from a group consisting of a single bond and  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ .

11. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), said linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld are each a single bond.

12. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), ring A, ring B and ring D are each independently selected from a group consisting of a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a trans-decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a trans-1,3-dioxane-2,4-diyl group, a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, and a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms.

13. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), Z is a fluorine atom.

14. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), Z is a cyano group.

15. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), Z is a trifluoromethoxy group.

16. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), R is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may incorporate a branched chain and may be substituted with 1 to 7 fluorine atoms or alkoxyl groups of 1 to 7 carbon atoms.

17. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), R is a saturated or unsaturated straight chain alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

18. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I),  $X^3$ ,  $X^4$  and  $X^5$  in said formula (IIa) and said formula (IIb) are hydrogen atoms.

19. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I),  $X^2$  in said formula (IIa) is a hydrogen atom and  $X^1$  is a fluorine atom.

20. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I),  $X^1$  in said formula (IIa) is a hydrogen atom and  $X^2$  is a fluorine atom.

612 21. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1 which shows liquid crystallinity.

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T0822T" 9892580 22. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1 which shows a nematic phase.

23. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1 which upon addition to a nematic liquid crystal composition shows a nematic phase.

613 27. (Amended) An active matrix driven liquid crystal display element utilizing a liquid crystal composition according to claim 25.